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**Studies in Policy and Practice
Faculty of Human and Social Development
University of Victoria**

**SPP 580: Reefer Madness: Drug Policy and Practice
Spring 2011**

Instructor: Susan Boyd
Office: HSD B-246
Phone: 721-8203
Email: scboyd@uvic.ca
Office hours: Wednesday, 16:30-18:30, Thursday, after class.
Class time and place: Thursday: 9:30-12:20, HSD A270

Course Description:

This course examines drug policy and practice and offers a feminist, critical sociological and cultural analysis of the assumptions underlying addictions discourse, drug treatment, the fictional line separating legal and illegal drug categories, the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act, and the 'war on drugs.' The social construction of legal and illegal drug use will be examined within a historical, cultural, political, and socio-economic context. Media representations, moral regulation, and race, class, and gender factors will be explored in relation to past and current drug policy. In addition, gender specific issues will be examined including the regulation of mothers, fetal rights, maternal-state conflicts, and neonatal abstinence syndrome. Drug policy, treatment, drug courts, harm reduction, decriminalization, and legal regulation will be considered. Contemporary social justice movements to end drug prohibition will be examined.

Required Readings:

1. Reserve articles are available in B202, HSD
2. Susan Boyd, Donald MacPherson, Bud Osborn. (2009). *Raise Shit! Social Action Saving Lives*. Halifax: Fernwood.
3. Course Package available in the bookstore.

Recommended Reading:

Ross Coomber & Nigel South (Eds.). (2000). *Drug use and cultural contexts: 'Beyond the West'*. London: Free Association Press.
Susan Boyd (2004). *From witches to crack moms: Women, drug law, and policy*. NC: Carolina Academic Press.

Course Evaluation and Assignments:

Participation and attendance: 20%
Presentation and handout 20%
Paper #1 20%

Final paper 40%

Attendance and Participation:

Participation and attendance are required in the course. The University of Victoria Calendar states that: “Students are expected to attend all classes in which they are enrolled.” Students who attend less than 80% of their classes will not receive a passing grade for the course. All assignments and presentations must be completed and handed in on their due date. Late papers will be penalized half a grade each day. Presentations cannot be made-up at another date. Students who fail to present on the due date will receive a zero grade.

All students are expected to read the weekly course material and to come to class prepared to discuss the articles and chapters. Reading and discussions are core elements of the course. I suggest that you write in your journal each week so that you come to class prepared.

Plagiarism and Cheating:

See the University of Victoria Calendar. Students are expected to follow the standards of scholarly integrity laid out in the calendar. Intellectual dishonesty will result in failure in the course.

1. Paper #1: Due February 17 (in class)

Course Journal--6 weeks—January 12th to February 17th (include February 17th article)

Include a full reference and **2 page summary of one** required article or chapter a week.

Each week consider the following question while reading and writing in your journal:

1. Short summary
2. What were the main points discussed by the author?
3. What sort of evidence do the authors provide to support their point of view (data, historical, theoretical)?
4. What were the most troublesome or important points raised by the author?

No outside material is required. However, students are expected to reference the article they chose for their journal. Students will choose **one** article with a star (*) beside it from the weekly material.

Journals will be evaluated on the success of your summary of the author’s argument and the main points; 2) your analysis of the author’s argument that you learn about from the text; 3) the insight you gain through your reading and communicate in your journal; and 4) clear presentation and attention to grammar and writing style. Journals should be typed, 12 font, double spaced.

2. Presentation and handout:

Each student will be responsible for reviewing a recent Canadian drug policy initiative (see list below). Depending on the size of the class, students may work in groups or alone. There will be two components to the assignment. The first will be a seminar presentation identifying the key areas discussed in the policy (no more than 15 minutes). Each student will provide a critical analysis of the underlying assumptions embedded in the policy and the impact the policy might

have on Canadian society. Following the presentation the class will have a chance to ask questions. Following the question and answer period, each student will be responsible for leading the seminar discussion for at least one hour. Engage fellow students about the policy and other course readings for the week. Come prepared to ask questions and to stimulate debate. You can be as creative as you would like.

The second part of the assignment will be the preparation of two-page summary of the policy and 4 discussion questions to be handed out in class (typed, 12 font).

1. A framework for action: A four pillar approach to drug problems in Vancouver
2. Marijuana Medical Access Regulations
3. Protocol Framework and Working Guidelines Between Child Protection and Alcohol and Drug Services
4. Health Officers Council of British Columbia, A public health approach to drug control in Canada
5. Controlled Drugs and Substances Act
6. Preventing Harm from Psychoactive Substance Use (City of Vancouver)
7. Report of the Senate Special Committee on Illegal Drugs
8. Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network, "Nothing About Us Without"
9. VANDU & Women's Care Team, "Me, I'm Living it: The primary health care experiences of women who use drugs in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside"
10. Reaching the Hardest to Reach –Treating the Hardest-to-Treat: Summary of the Primary Outcomes of the North American Opiate Medication Initiative (NAOMI)

With permission from your instructor, other policy papers will be considered.

3. Final Paper: Due March 31, 2010 (in class)

Each student will write a formal 15-page research paper (double spaced, 12 font) using course and outside material. Students should include refereed journal articles and books related to their subject of choice.

Some paper topics:

- Marijuana and Medical Marijuana policy
- Criminal Justice Policy and Drug Law
- Maternal Drug Use and Policy
- Drug Treatment Policy
- Social Service Policy Related to Drug Use
- Psychedelics and Therapeutic Use
- Alternatives to criminal justice
- Social cohesion and drug use
- Media and illegal drug representations
- Drugs and Art
- Pleasure and Drugs

With permission from your instructor, papers that do not address the topics listed above will be considered prior to the due date.

Marking:

All class assignments will be evaluated on structure/format, analysis, and familiarity/integration of the materials in the course and outside material, ability to understand and critically analyze the material and topic (historical, political, social and cultural context), and ability to address the individual components of the assignment with intellectual honesty.

See the Graduate Marking Grid in the University of Victoria Graduate Studies Calendar.

Late papers are not acceptable except for documented medical reasons. All other late papers will be penalized by half a grade each day.

Intellectual dishonesty will result in failure in the course. Academic integrity and violations of academic integrity intellectual dishonesty are defined (plagiarism, multiple submissions, cheating, etc.) in the University of Victoria Graduate Studies Calendar.

Attendance and Participation:

Participation and attendance are required in the course. The University of Victoria Graduate Studies Calendar states that: “Students are expected to attend all classes in which they are enrolled”. Students who attend less than 80% of their classes will not qualify for the final assignment and will not receive a passing grade for the course. All assignments and presentations must be completed and handed in on their due date. Late papers will be penalized half a grade each day. All students are expected to read the weekly course material and to come to class prepared to discuss the articles and chapters.

Required Reading & Recommended Reading

Jan. 6 **Introduction to sociological, cultural and feminist perspectives on drug use:**
Coomber & South, Chapter 1. (reserve)

Craig Reinerman & Harry Levine, pp. 8-13 (coursepack, excerpt from chapter, *Crack in Context*).

Paul Manning, "An introduction to the theoretical approaches and research traditions" From P. Manning (Ed.), *Drugs and popular culture*. London: Willan, 2007. (reserve)

Recommended Reading:

Canadian Addiction Survey, "Highlights" (reserve)

Jan. 13 **Representation, Pleasure, and Alcohol regulation:**

Stuart Hall, "Stereotyping as a signifying practice" (pp. 257-261)" (reserve)

Editorial, "Pleasure and drugs" (reserve, we carry this journal on line in the library, *International Journal of Drug Policy*, 19: 349-352, 2008.

Brian Maracle, "Prohibition" (coursepack)

*Craig Reinerman, "The social construction of an alcohol problem: The case of mothers against drug drivers and social control in the 1980s" (reserve, we also carry this journal on line in the library, *Theory and Society*, 17(1), 1988)

Recommended Reading:

Craig MacAndrew and Robert Egerton, "Drunkenness as time out" coursepack

*Coomber & South, Chapter 7 & 8 (reserve)

Jan. 20 **Narcotic regulation:**

Robert Solomon, "Introduction" (coursepack)

Emily Murphy, "Pipe Dreams" (coursepack)

*Neil Boyd, "The origins of Canadian Narcotics legislation" (coursepack)

Ken Walker, “How a medical journalist helped to legalize heroin in Canada” (coursepack)

*David Shewan & Phil Dalgarno, “Low levels of negative health and social outcomes among non-treatment heroin users in Glasgow (Scotland): Evidence for controlled heroin use?” (reserve, journal on line in the library, *British Journal of Health Psychology*, 10, 1-17, 2005)

Recommended Reading:

Coomber & South, Chapter 5 (reserve)

Jan. 27

Cocaine & Methamphetamine regulation:

*Craig Reinerman and Harry Levine, “Crack in Context” coursepack

*Vicky Bungay, Johnson, J., Varcoe, C., & Susan Boyd, “The Context of Crack Cocaine Use: The Perspectives of Women who Use” (reserve, on line in the library, *International Journal of Drug Policy*, 21:321-329, 2010.

Susan Boyd & Connie Carter, C. (2010). Methamphetamine discourse: Media, law and policy. (reserve, on line at the library, *Canadian Journal of Communications*, 35(2), 219-237, 2010.

Recommended:

VANDU & Women’s Care Team, “Me, I’m Living it: The primary health care experiences of women who use drugs in Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside,” 2009, (reserve)

Coomber & South, Chapters 3, 4, 6 (reserve)

Feb. 3

Marijuana & Psychedelics (view Reefer Madness):

*Wade Davis, “Plants of the gods” coursepack

Susan Boyd, “*High: Marijuana, women and the law*” (reserve, we carry this journal on line in the library, *Canadian Journal of Woman and the Law*, 21(1): 35-54, 2009)

*Erich Goode, “Moral panics and disproportionality: The case of LSD use in the sixties” (reserve, we carry this journal on line in the library, *Deviant Behavior*,

29(6): 533-543, 2008)

Recommended Reading:

Editorial, “Cannabis policy: time to move beyond the psychosis debate” (reserve, we carry this journal on line in the library, *International Journal of Drug Policy*, 21: 261-264, 2010.

Philippe Lucas (2009). Moral regulation and the presumption of guilt in Health Canada’s medical cannabis policy and practice. (reserve, we carry this journal on line in the library, *International Journal of Drug Policy*, 20(4): 296-303.

Dreher, M., Nugent, J., & Hudgins, R. (1994). Prenatal marijuana exposure and neonatal outcomes in Jamaica: An ethnographic study. *Pediatrics*, 93(2), 254-260.

Coomber & South, Chapter 10 (reserve)

Pierre Nolan, “Regulating Therapeutic Use of Cannabis” (reserve)

Ken Tupper, “Entheogens & Education: Exploring the potential of psychoactives as educational tools” (reserve)

Feb. 10

Tobacco and Pharmaceuticals (view Hoffman’s Potion):

Suzanne Fraser, kylie valentine, & Celia Roberts, *Living Drugs* (pp. 123-128) (reserve, we carry this journal on line in the library, *Science as Culture*, 18(2): 123-131, 2009.

Joshua Shenk, “ America’s altered states” When does legal relief of pain become illegal pursuit of pleasure?” *Harper’s Magazine*, May 1999 (reserve)

*David Healy, Chapter One from *Let them eat Prozac*, (reserve)

Recommended Reading:

*David Healy, “Psychopharmacology and the government of the self” (reserve, and on line (see google)

(Joel Lexchin, “Globalization, trade deals and drugs” (reserve) (or online at the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives)

Feb. 17

Addiction and Drug Treatment:

*Craig Reinerman. (2005). “Addiction as accomplishment” (reserve, we carry this

journal on line in the library, *Addiction Research and Theory*, 13(4).

*Angela Garcia. (2008). "The elegiac addict: History, chronicity, and the melancholic subject" (reserve, we carry this journal on line in the library, *Cultural Anthropology*, 23(4): 718-746.

*Helen Keane. (2008). "Disorders of desire: Addiction and problems of intimacy" (we also carry this journal on line in the library, *Journal of Medical Humanities*, 25(3): 189-204, 2004.

Recommended Reading:

*Geoffrey Harding, "Pathologizing the soul" coursepack

READING BREAK (NO CLASS FEB. 24th)

March 3 **Drug Services and Harm Reduction:**

Bruce Alexander, "Beyond Vancouver's 'Four Pillars'" (reserve, we carry this journal on line in the library, *International Journal of Drug Policy*, 17: 118-123, 2006.

Yuet Cheung, "Substance abuse and developments in harm reduction, (reserve, we carry this journal on line in the library, *CMAJ*, 162(12):1697-1700, 2000.

Stephen Hwang, Science and ideology, (reserve, we carry this journal on line in the library, *Open Medicine*, 1(2): 99-101, 2007.

*Dara Culhane (2009). Narratives of hope and despair in Downtown Eastside Vancouver, in *Healing Traditions*. (reserve)

Philippe Bourgois, "Disciplining addictions: The bio-politics of methadone and heroin in the United States" (reserve, we carry this journal on line in the library, *Culture, Medicine and Psychiatry*, 24:165-195, 2000.

Recommended Reading:

Nancy Campbell & Susan Shaw, "Incitements to discourse: Illicit drugs, harm reduction, and the production of ethnographic subjects" (reserve, we carry this journal on line in the library, *Cultural Anthropology*, 23(4): 688-717, 2008.

Alan Wood, Patti Zettel, & Wil Stewart, "Harm reduction Nursing" (reserve, we carry this journal on line in the library, *Canadian Nurse*, 99(5): 20-24, 2003.

Bernie Pauly (2008). Shifting moral values to enhance health care. (reserve, we carry this journal on line in the library, *International Journal of Drug Policy*, 19: 195-204.

March 10 **Harm Reduction & Media Representation:**

Editorial, “Supervised injection rooms” (reserve, we carry this journal on line in the library, *International Journal of Drug Policy*, 13: 2025-2042, 2002)

Thomas Kerr et al., “Drug-related overdoses within a medically supervised safer injection facility” (reserve, we carry this journal on line in the library, *International Journal of Drug Policy*, 17, 2006)

Stuart Taylor, “Outside the outsiders: Media representations of drug use” (reserve, we carry this journal on line in the library, *The Journal of Community and Criminal Justice*, 55(4), 369-387, 2008)

Recommended Reading:

James Nolan, “Preface” and James Chriss, “The drug court movement” (reserve)

Patricia Spittal et al., “Risk factors for elevated HIV incidence rates among female injection drug users in Vancouver” (reserve, we carry this journal on line the library, *Canadian Medical Association Journal (CMAJ)*, 166(7): 894-899, 2002.

March 17 **Maternal/State Conflicts:**

Boyd text, Chapter 2, *From witches to crack moms*, (reserve)

J. Flavin, J. & L. Paltrow, “Punishing pregnant drug-using women: Defying law, medicine, and common sense.” (we carry this journal on line in the library *Journal of Addictive Diseases*, 29(2), 231-244, 2010.

Elizabeth Armstrong, “Diagnosing moral disorder: The discovery and evolution of fetal alcohol syndrome” (reserve, we carry this journal on line in the library *Social Science & Medicine*, 47(12): 2025-2042, 1998)

Recommended Reading:

Mary Hepburn, “ Providing care for pregnant women who use drugs” (reserve)

Susan Boyd & Lenora Marcellus, *With Child* (reserve)

Susan Boyd, Chapter 3, Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome. *Mothers and Illicit Drugs* (reserve)

Presentation: Protocol Framework and Working Guidelines Between Child Protection and Alcohol and Drug Services

March 24

Criminal Justice (view The Union):

Susan Boyd, “Representations of women in the drug trade” (reserve, or on line at www.educatingharper.com)

David Eby, “The political power of police and crackdowns: Vancouver’s example” on reserve (we carry this journal on line in the library, *International Journal of Drug Policy*, 17, 2006.

Kora DeBeck, EvanWood, Julio Montaner, & ThomasKerr, Canada’s new federal ‘National Anti-Drug Strategy’: An informal Audit of reported funding allocation (reserve, we carry this journal on line in the library, *International Journal of Drug Policy*, 20:188–191, 2009.

DeBeck, K., Wood, E., Montaner, J., Kerr, T. “Canada’s 2003 Renewed Drug strategy--An evidence-based review” (reserve, see www.educatingharper.com or we carry this journal on line in the library, *HIV/AIDS Policy and Law Review*, 11 (23), 1, 5-12, 2006.

Recommended Reading:

Will Small et al. “Impacts of intensified police activity on injection drug users” on reserve (we also carry this journal on line in the library, *International Journal of Drug Policy*, 17, 2006.

The Pew Center on the States (2009). *One in 31: The long reach of American Corrections*. Washington, DC: The Pew Charitable Trusts. (reserve and on line)

The Pew Center on the States (2008). *One in 100: Behind Bars in America 2008*. Washington, DC: The Pew Charitable Trusts. (reserve and on line)

March 31

Resistance:

Susan Boyd, Donald Macpherson, Bud Osborn, *Raise Shit! Social Action Saving Lives*.

Vienna Declaration (reserve)

Creative Resistance: Principles of Post-Prohibition Drug Control (reserve and available at www.educatingharper.com)

VANDU Manifesto (reserve)

Victoria Harm Reduction Association flyer

Recommended Reading:

Harry Levine, “Drug Commission, the next generation: ‘To Boldly Go...’”
(coursepack)

Samuel Friedman & Graciela Touze, “Policy bereft of research or theory: A failure of harm reduction science” on reserve (we also carry this journal on line in the library, *International Journal of Drug Policy*, 17, 2006.

Bud Osborn & Will Small, “Speaking the truth to power” on reserve (we also carry this journal on line in the library, *International Journal of Drug Policy*, 17, 2006.